

Here is a recommended definition for

Alternative Education programs

A separate program within a K-12 public school district or charter school established to serve and provide youth a choice or option whose needs are not being met in the traditional school setting.

There are three indispensable goals for alternative schools:

1. That students attend by choice.
2. That the school or program be responsive to unmet local needs.
3. That the student body reflects the racial and socio-economic mix of the community.

Other useful Definitions are as follows;

Alternative Schools

Definition:

This term broadly refers to public schools which are set up by states or school districts to serve populations of students who are not succeeding in the traditional public school environment. Alternative schools offer students who are failing academically or may have learning disabilities or behavioral problems an opportunity to achieve in a different setting. While there are many different kinds of alternative schools, they are often characterized by their flexible schedules, smaller teacher-student ratios and modified curricula.

Alternative Education Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) Enrollment

Definition:

The combined number of full-time students with the full-time equivalent number of part-time students (e.g., two half-time students comprise one FTE student) associated with alternative education programs.

Formula:

Total full-time equivalent (FTE) enrollment of alternative education program. As a percentage, calculated by dividing alternative education full-time equivalent enrollment by total full-time equivalent enrollment.

Data Source:

Michigan Department of Education K-12 Database